

DESCRIPTION OF THE CHATEAU D'EU.

Eu is chiefly remarkable on account of its Chateau, belonging to King Louis Philippe, who inherited it with the Comté d'Eu from his mother, daughter and heiress of the Duc de Penthièvre. His Majesty spends here in retirement a few weeks of every autumn. It is a low building of red brick surmounted by high tent-shaped roofs of slate, like the pavilions of the Tuileries, and is without architectural beauty. It was built in 1578 by Henry of Lorraine, Le Balafre Duc de Guise, on the site of a castle which had belonged in turn to the Lusignans, the Briennes, the Artois, the Cleves, and the St. Pals, and which was burnt down by Louis XI. (1475), to punish the treachery of the Comte de St. Pol. It has been much augmented by the present King, and splendidly fitted up, the walls being clothed with a collection of historical and family portraits, including those of the Royal Family and the various lines of the Counts of Eu, to the number of 1,190. Many of them are copies, others are mere furniture pictures; yet the collection is highly interesting, and the formation of it seems to have given rise to the grander gallery of Versailles, which this resembles on a miniature scale. There appears to be no other arrangement than that of making a certain number of pictures fit into certain spaces; names, dates, nations, and families are intermixed, and the walls are covered with them from the top to the bottom of the house.

As the pictures are chiefly valuable in so historical point of view, not as works of art, and as every one bears its name on the frame, it is useless to enter into long details, which would merely be to give a list of the most eminent names in French history. A few, however, are here noted down, as possessing some peculiar interest:—The Regent Duke of Orleans, by Mignard; Napoleon and his father, Charles Buonaparte. There are several portraits of the frivolous and Ambitious Anne Marie Louise de Montpensier, called sometimes La Grande Mademoiselle, who, after having aspired to the hands of her cousin Louis XIV., of the Grand Condé, of Charles II., and of the Emperor of Germany, was content at last to be married to Lauzun, a simple gentleman, and endured from him, according to report, the insult of being ordered, by the undignified appellation of "Louise d'Orléans," to draw off his boots! She often resided in this chateau; and one of these likenesses, at the age of 43, in which she is drawn holding her father's (Gaston Duc d'Orléans) portrait, is mentioned by her in her *Mémoires*. Her bedroom was that occupied by the present Queen. Some of the drawings in the Cabinet de la Coquille, on the first floor, are by her. She became possessor of Eu by purchase from Mademoiselle de Guise, the last descendant of that family in a direct line, 1661. She bequeathed it to the Duc de Maine, natural son of Louis XIV., by Madame de Montespan, in the vain hope of ransoming Lauzun, her husband, from the Bastille. She first commenced the historic gallery of portraits at Eu, and her collection forms the groundwork of that still existing. At the back of one of the portraits of herself there is written by her own hand, "Bergere d'un la faite du Village voisin." Portraits continued—of Louis XVI., Marie Antoinette, his Queen, the Dauphin their son, who died in the Temple, and all the other members of their family; those of Louis Philippe and his family occupy the *Salon de Famille*:—the most pleasing and interesting is the Princess Marie of Wurtemberg, the sculptor of the admirable statue of Jeanne d'Arc. There are two portraits of Louis Philippe-Egalité (died 1793), one as a young man in civil dress, the other in uniform, by Sir J. Reynolds.

One of the most superb and interesting apartments is the Galerie de Guises, filled with portraits of that remarkable family, who once owned this chateau; among them, Claude de Lorraine, with the armour and sword with which he fought at Marignan; François de Lorraine, Duc de Guise, who was wounded in the face before Boulogne by an English lance, and who endured the pain of having the lance head extracted from his cheek with a pair of

pincers, while the surgeon rested his foot on the duke's head to obtain a purchase. He was the successful defender of Metz against Charles V., and the capturer of Calais from the English; he was killed by the poisoned bullet of Poltrot, 1563. His son, Duc Henri Balafre, so called also from a wound in his cheek received from an arquebuse at the battle of Dormans. He began to build the Chateau d'Eu 1578; he was the chief of the Ligue, the hero of the Journée des Barricades, and the murderer of Coligny on St. Bartholomew's night. He was assassinated by Henri III. at Blois (Route 33), 1588, together with his brother, the Cardinal de Guise.

Marie de Lorraine, daughter of Duke Claude, Queen of James V. of Scotland, and mother of Mary Queen of Scots; Queen Mary herself in her widow's weeds of white (Royal mourning); Catherine, Duchesse de Montpensier, sister of Le Balafre, who revenged his death by instigating Jacques Clement to assassinate Henri III.; the Duc de Mayenne, brother of Le Balafre, commander of the armies of the Ligue against Henri IV., Henri II. de Lorraine, Duc de Guise, conqueror and viceroy of Naples after Masaniello's rebellion.

Of Louis XIV. there are several likenesses, also of his family, his mistresses, his generals, his court; and even more of Louis XV. In the billiard-room are Charles I. and II., Oliver Cromwell, Queen Elizabeth, Joan of Arc, and Agnes Sorel.

The superb Salle des Rois is so called because filled with portraits of kings and queens only. Here are Marie de Medicis, by Van Dyck, given by herself to Mademoiselle de Montpensier, and Henri IV.

In the King's Cabinet, among portraits of his own family, including his father, are Madame de Genlis, his preceptress, Pamela, afterwards Lady Fitzgerald, and Madame de Lambelle, who was murdered in 1793.

The small chapel, a mixture of Gothic and Italian in its decorations, has some modern painted-glass windows from Sevres; one is a portrait of St. Amelie, after a picture by Paul de la Roche.

The park or grounds are less attractive than

the palace, being a wilderness of trees, mostly weedy elms, planted in rows with angular terraces; a gloomy canal, and muddy circular ponds beset with willows. No advantage has been taken of the slopes of the ground—no taste shewn in laying out the brotherhood of alleys and formal parterres. Mr. Loudon might make something good out of it. Only on the left of the castle a few ancient beeches survive, beneath whose branches the Balafre Duc de Guise heard the suits of his vassals, and concerted plots against his sovereign. Here a small space has been raised in by the King, who has affixed this inscription:—"Ici les Guises tenaient conseil au XVI. siècle." At the extremity of the ground is a terrace overlooking the gap through which the Bresle, quitting the bare and dull valley, enters the sea, and the little village, Treport, is perceived at its mouth. On this terrace is a brick pavilion, fitted up by poor Mademoiselle, during the time she was banished to her estate at Eu by the tyrant Louis XIV., for refusing to marry the paralytic and imbecile King of Portugal. Louis Philippe has restored it, and ornamented it with pictures of the events of her life.

Treport, the port of Eu, three miles distant, is a fishing village of 2,265 inhabitants, having an old church with a fine portal. It is supposed to be the *ulterior portus* of Julius Cæsar.

There remains to be noticed at Eu the effigies of the Duc Henri de Guise Le Balafre, murdered at Blois, and of his wife, Catherine de Cleves, in the *Eglise du College*, originally of the Jesuits, who were established at Eu by Le Balafre. The church built out of the ruins of the old castle, as well as the monuments, were raised at her expense; they are rich in marble, but of no value as works of art. He is represented in armour, she in ruff and farthingale; there are duplicate effigies of both, attended by figures of Prudence, Strength, Faith, and Charity; Gillot was the sculptor. From the pulpit of this church, Bourdaloue preached his first sermon. On the Bresle, close to the palace, is a mill for making sea biscuits, established by an Englishman.—*Hand Book for France*.



DOORWAY IN SOUTH PORCH, THORNBURY CHURCH, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.